



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

BRUCE RAUNER
GOVERNOR

November 20, 2015

Ms. Amy Blair
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kansas City District, Room 529
601 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106

Re: Next NGA West/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Dear Ms. Blair:

On behalf of the people of Illinois, I write to express my strong support for the Scott Air Force Base-St. Clair County site as the best future home for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's (NGA) new western headquarters. As I have said before, locating the new facility adjacent to Scott Air Force Base presents significant strategic advantages for the NGA and exciting opportunities for major economic development and new jobs in southwestern Illinois.

Together with leaders of key agencies in my administration, we have carefully reviewed the Army Corps' Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and found that it confirms that the Illinois site is a highly desirable option for the NGA. However, we concur with St. Clair County officials' views that the DEIS does not fully capture all of the benefits of building in Illinois.

The site in Illinois offers the best potential for furthering the NGA's long-term growth and mission, which in turn will make our country safer. It meets the agency's pressing needs with low-cost, immediately available, construction-ready land that allows plenty of room to grow, particularly with the additional 200 acres offered earlier this month. The site's co-location with a military base, as well as other major Department of Defense assets, ensures that the agency's employees and their highly specialized work will be best protected. In addition, Illinois' world class universities, supercomputing centers and technology innovation hubs, already are attracting and developing ideal candidates for the NGA's long-term workforce needs.

We urge the NGA and the Army Corps to give considerable weight to the fact that the St. Clair County site is ready for construction to begin immediately. The undeveloped plot requires no costly demolition or lengthy upheaval of residents, businesses, or community resources. Cultural resource impacts are minor and already being addressed. It would also generate little adverse environmental impact, and require no environmental remediation. Further, utilities located near the site would not require extensive realignment.



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Finally, I want to personally extend a welcome to the NGA's workers, as the agency's most important asset. They will find St. Clair County a growing, friendly and safe place to work every day. Together we will make every effort to ensure that the St. Clair County site is as conveniently accessible as their current workplace.

I commend St. Clair County officials for their tremendous leadership and tireless work to shepherd this proposal. I pledge to continue to work with them, my Lieutenant Governor, the leaders of Illinois' Departments of Transportation, Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Military Affairs, as well as the Army Corps of Engineers and the NGA to build NGA West in Illinois.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bruce Rauner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bruce" and last name "Rauner" clearly distinguishable.

Bruce Rauner
Governor, State of Illinois

cc: Robert Cardillo, Director, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
Mark A. Kern, St. Clair County Board Chairman
Tim Cantwell, Director - MidAmerica St. Louis Airport